

Faith and Inspiration

Love/Hate Relationship



By Vincent V. Marshburn -

A casual reader of the Bible might balk at the statement included in Ecclesiastes chapter 3, that there is "a time to love and a time to hate." Is this indicating that even for a believer, hate might be appropriate, or necessary? Of course, as with much of the Bible, there is complexity and nuance which must be understood with regard to such a declaration.

It is true that God is love (1 John 4:16) and that followers of Jesus are exhorted to demonstrate his love even towards enemies (Matthew 5:28-39, 43-48; Luke 6:27-28). However, one could also maintain a Biblical claim that God exhibits "hate" — that is, extreme displeasure and rejection of things which are contrary to his nature. God is completely justified in his holiness to be diametrically opposed to and disapproving of evil and its outward manifestations (Proverbs 6:16-19, Psalm 11:5, Psalm 101:3, Hosea 9:15). As creatures formed in his image, we should be so blessed to reflect and emulate this divine character trait (Proverbs 8:13, Psalm 97:10, Amos 5:15, Romans 12:9).

However, humanity's expression of hate typically does not emanate from any quality of righteousness or purity,

but rather is yet another product of the sin that infests our souls and spirits. When Satan subtly manipulated the first human beings into rejecting God's guidance and providence, the human heart became fertile ground for the seeds of mistrust, suspicion, and resentment.

The Bible asserts that indulging in hate leads to the most grievous and tragic outcomes. Indeed, we find that not only are hatred and deceit complementary to each other (Proverbs 26:24-26), but furthermore, hate essentially possesses the same impact as murder (1 John 3:15). Ultimately, hate is a ruinous state of mind and heart that leads to ruinous choices and actions.

Scripture informs us that even if we forge a path to victory over hate for ourselves (Genesis 50:20, Leviticus 19:17, Philippians 2:14-15, 1 Timothy 2:1-2), we will remain surrounded by hate in the world (Psalm 25:19, Matthew 10:22, John 15:18-19, John 17:14, 1 John 3:13). Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of the most prominent leaders of the U.S. civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s, assured his audience in a sermon that:

"Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Hate itself does not occur in a vacuum and is generally motivated or triggered by other emotions or impulses,

such as fear, shame, or even ego. Envy and greed are likewise common catalysts of contention and animosity (James 4:1-2). We observe the consequences of hate in the multifarious conflicts that have occurred throughout history, and which unfortunately continue to this day. While such turmoil is lamentable, we are not entirely confounded, as Scripture affirms that "hatred stirs up strife" (Proverbs 10:12).

In an episode of the original "Star Trek" television series, the crew of the starship U.S.S. Enterprise is lured into an armed confrontation with the crew of a severely damaged Klingon battle cruiser. Klingons are notorious for their ferocity as fearless warriors with a seemingly unquenchable thirst for carnage. The potentially catastrophic nature of the situation lies in the fact that there has been a tenuous peace treaty between the United Federation of Planets and the Klingon Empire, and this incident could seriously undermine that apprehensive armistice.

Through the investigative insight of officers such as Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock, the Enterprise crew comes to realize that all parties are being manipulated by a mysterious alien entity that appears in the form of a strange ball of light. This entity is quite powerful and appears to be able to not only influence thoughts and emotions but also materialize distinct mele weapons from existing matter, compelling the competing crews to face off against each other in vicious, bloodthirsty cycles of hand-to-hand

combat aboard the Enterprise, and ensuring that no one succumbs to fatality.

As it happens, the entity is feeding off the primal negative emotions of both the Starfleet crew and the Klingons — namely, the hate and hostility that drives them towards an intense sense of enmity. Mr. Spock deduces some correlations between their recurring surges of antagonism and the entity's apparent power; he also observes an interesting reduction of the entity's strength when a crew member is incapacitated during a skirmish.

SPOCK: Fascinating. During Lieutenant Johnson's emotional outburst, his expression of hatred and lust for vengeance, the alien's life energy level increased. When the Lieutenant became unconscious, the alien lost energy.

KIRK: It subsists on the emotions of others.

SPOCK: This one appears to be strengthened by mental irradiations of hostility, violent intentions.

KIRK: It exists on the hate of others.

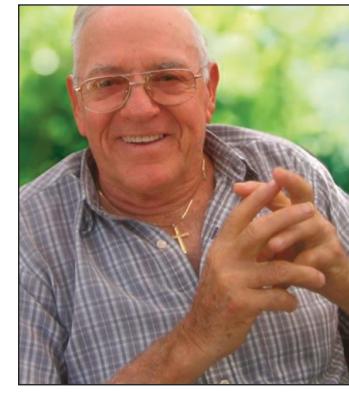
SPOCK: To put it simply. And it has acted as a catalyst, creating this situation in order to satisfy that need. ... Then all hostile attitudes on board must be eliminated. The fighting must end, and soon.

KIRK: Or we're a doomed ship, travelling forever between galaxies, filled with eternal bloodlust, eternal warfare.

Obituary

Leo Dubé Sr.

Leo Dubé Sr., a revered veteran of both World War II and the Korean War, passed away unexpectedly on May 8, 2024, at the age of 98. He was born on January 9, 1926, to Orena Richards Dubé and Arthur Dubé. Throughout his life, Leo embodied the highest ideals of service and dedication, both as a member of the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Braine during World War II and later in the Air Force during the Korean War. Leo's love for the warm waters of South Florida was unparalleled. An avid fisherman and active swimmer until his final years, he was famous for his lobster hauls and the memorable feasts that followed. He also formed close bonds with his nephew-in-laws, Mongine and his wife Gladys, Raymond and Felito, who became his confidants, especially in his later years. Affectionately known as "Popeye," a nickname lovingly given by his grandson, Joey (Leo the III), Leo was a pillar in his community and a beloved figure at Mario's, where his daily cafecitos made him a cherished friend to staff and patrons alike. He was deeply devoted to his wife, Onelia, a native of Cuba, and played a crucial role in helping her family emigrate to the United States and pursue the American dream. Leo is survived by his grandsons, Joey Dubé (Leo the III) and Zeke Herzog, and his granddaughter, Yvonne Camacho. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Onelia, and his sons, Leo Jr. and Albert. His life will be celebrated with full military honors at his funeral on May 25, 2024, at 1 PM at Caballero Rivero Palms Woodlawn Funeral Home, where his wife and son are also laid to rest. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to a veterans' organization of your choice, to honor Leo's legacy of supporting his fellow servicemen and women.



To submit an obituary or death notice, email wording and jpg photo to Emily@newsleadermail.com, 305-245-2311. Print deadline is Wednesday at noon.

Despite facing significant challenges and resistance, Captain Kirk convinces a female Klingon officer of the critically perilous status of both crews. Together, they make a desperate appeal to the Klingon captain for a cessation of hostilities. Ultimately, the Klingon captain summons his martial sense of honor and defiance and concedes. Weakened by the absence of animus, the alien entity is thus cast out into the void of space.

As believers, we desire to extinguish the flames of hate that sometimes engulf and devastate the hearth of humankind's heart. This is not the righteous "hate" towards sin that God bears, but a selfish, distrustful hate that disrupts and despoils any hope of harmony among people.

We can readily acknowledge and appreciate God's abhorrence of sin, his

divine aversion to all that is unholy and impure. Indeed, we are beholden to his utter contempt for sin that led him to fulfill its penalty himself through the redeeming work of Jesus. In this manner, God loves completely unconditionally, and God hates wholly appropriately in keeping with his character.

Through the transformative work of the Holy Spirit, we can align our lives to properly discern a time to love and a time to hate. Dealing with our brothers and sisters, neighbors and enemies, is a time to love as we draw all people into his presence. Dealing with sin and its corrupting, destructive effects is a time to hate as we share in God's sorrow, disappointment, and indignation. In our believer's heart, we can embody and exhibit a time for everything.

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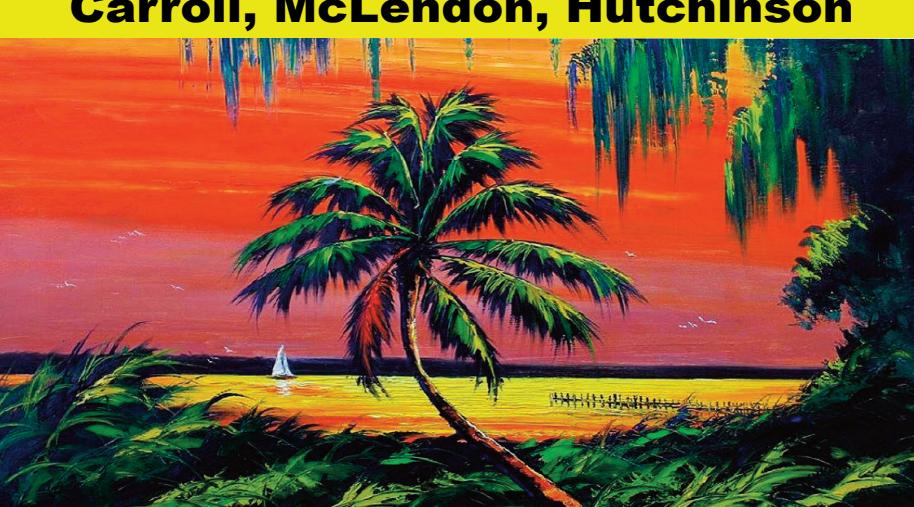
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